



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Sequoia and Kings Canyon
National Parks

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Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks News Release

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Escape to Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks for a Fall or Winter Adventure!

SEQUOIA AND KINGS CANYON NATIONAL PARKS, CALIFORNIA – Escape to Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks soon for fall colors and/or snow. Feel like an ant in a land of giants next to the “Big Trees.” Take a hike! Or, spend a relaxing day cross-country skiing or snowshoeing. For a fun and safe adventure, keep these tips in mind:

General Tips

- *Fee-Free Weekend:* Enjoy your national parks for free from November 9-11 for Veterans Day weekend.
- *Safety:* Come prepared! Check weather forecasts before your arrival. Snow chains or cables may be required during your visit. Visit www.nps.gov/seki/planyourvisit/currentcond.htm.
- *Dates are subject-to-change due to winter severity and staffing considerations:* Visit www.nps.gov/seki or call 559-565-3341 (weekdays) for updates.

In Sequoia National Park

- *Visitor Centers:*
 - The Foothills Visitor Center, located 1 mile inside the park (near Hwy. 198), is open daily from 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. with information, exhibits, bookstore, and restrooms.
 - The Giant Forest Museum, located near the “Big Trees,” will be open from 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. daily, weather-permitting, until Dec. 1. Starting on Dec. 2, the museum will be open from 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. on Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays, plus holidays only, weather-permitting. The museum offers visitor information, exhibits, a bookstore, and restrooms.
 - The Lodgepole Visitor Center and adjacent snack bar and gift shop have closed for the season.

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- *Campgrounds:*
 - Potwisha Campground – open year-round
 - South Fork Campground – open year-round, no water available
 - Lodgepole Campground – closes November 3 at 12 noon, weather-permitting
 - For more information: www.nps.gov/seki/planyourvisit/campgrounds.htm
- *Lodging and Restaurants:* Facilities are limited inside the parks during winter, so plan accordingly.
 - Inside the parks--<http://www.nps.gov/seki/planyourvisit/lodging.htm>
 - In nearby communities--<http://www.nps.gov/seki/planyourvisit/lodgingoutsideparks.htm>
- *Crystal Cave:* Crystal Cave is open for tours from Thursdays through Sundays only, weather-permitting. On Thursdays and Fridays, tours will be held at 1 p.m., 2 p.m., and 3 p.m. On weekends, tours will be held at 12 p.m., 1 p.m., 2 p.m., and 3 p.m. Tours are by flashlight only, with flashlights provided. Purchase tickets at least 1-1/2 hours in advance on the day itself at either the Foothills Visitor Center or the Giant Forest Museum. Info: www.sequoiahhistory.org.
- *Roads and Parking:*
 - Access to Mineral King is closed for the season starting on October 28.
 - Moro Rock/Crescent Meadow Road is expected to be open through November 12 at 12 noon, weather-permitting.
 - Crystal Cave Road is expected to close on December 1, weather-permitting.
 - The large parking lot for the General Sherman Tree is open through December 1, weather-permitting. After this lot closes, visitors should park in the small General Sherman Tree parking lot along the Generals Highway.
- *Shuttles:* Free shuttles will operate in Sequoia National Park during the holidays, from November 28 - December 1, 2013, and December 26, 2013 - January 1, 2014. Shuttles will travel between the Giant Forest Museum, Sherman Tree parking area, Wolverton, and Wuksachi Lodge.
- *Snowplay:*
 - The Wolverton Road and parking area is expected to be open on Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays, weather-permitting, to accommodate access to winter recreation activities.
 - Stop by a park visitor center or museum for maps of cross-country ski and snowshoe trails.

In Kings Canyon National Park

- *Visitor Center:*
 - Through November 2: The Kings Canyon Visitor Center is open from 9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. daily.
 - Starting on November 3: The Kings Canyon Visitor Center will be open from 9:30 a.m.- 4:00 p.m. daily, but closed for lunch from 12:00-1:00 p.m.
 - The visitor center provides information, exhibits, a bookstore, and restrooms.
- *Campgrounds:*
 - Azalea Campground – open year-round
 - For more information: www.nps.gov/seki/planyourvisit/campgrounds.htm
- *Lodging and Restaurants:* Facilities are limited inside the parks during winter, so plan accordingly.
 - Inside the parks--<http://www.nps.gov/seki/planyourvisit/lodging.htm>.
 - Delaware North Parks & Resorts has been selected to operate a new 10-year concession contract including overnight accommodations, food and beverage, retail, and other services at Kings Canyon National Parks (Grant Grove and Cedar Grove areas). The new contract will take effect on November 1, 2013. Kings Canyon Park Services will continue to provide those services to the public through October 31, 2013.
In nearby communities--<http://www.nps.gov/seki/planyourvisit/lodgingoutsideparks.htm>.
- *Roads and Parking:*
 - *Visitors may access Cedar Grove for day-use only (no campgrounds or lodging, no food or water) through November 12, at 12 noon, when CalTrans closes gate access along Hwy. 180.*
 - The Cedar Grove Bridge has been completed. This will provide more direct access (no detours) to hotel and restaurant facilities next summer.
 - Panoramic Point Road is expected to close to vehicle access upon significant snowfall.
- *Snowplay:*
 - The Big Stump Picnic Area is the best location for sledding and snowman-building.
 - Stop by the park visitor center for maps of cross-country ski and snowshoe trails.

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